

## **Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2012**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by CAC Co-Chair Bob Joiner at the Maple Grove Government Center

#### **Members Present**

Leslie Bender	Lorraine Gresser	Bob Joiner	Pam Larson
John Beacham	Stephen Gill	Steven Maas	
Joan Masberg	Greg Hulne	Don Skoglund	

#### **Members Absent**

Joe Piket, Kevin Rebman, Linda Furst, Harry Kennedy and Tim Klevar.

#### **Others Present**

CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes for the September 12, 2012 regular CAC meeting were approved.

#### **Area Reports**

Mr. Beacham stated that the Nottingham development is pleased that the Bass Lake Road completion target date is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Discussion took place on the closing of Bass Lake Road on October 15<sup>th</sup> instead of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Discuss Role and Purpose of CAC**

Mr. Joiner stated that at the City Council candidates forum last week that the candidates all talked about Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) more in the past tense and not the future. Mr. Joiner stated that the CAC has been useful in the past; how can we be useful in the future? Mr. Joiner went on to state that Maple Grove is transitioning into a community with a slower growth rate and pattern. In the long term, we need more business growth. Is there a need for an economic development committee to put together with CAC? Is there a City vision for the future

Ms. Gresser asked do we need to prove ourselves to the Council. Mr. Joiner stated that CAC has not received many projects in the past 1-2 years.

Mr. Skoglund suggested checking with the City of Brooklyn Park to see how they are doing their business development. He went on to ask how can the City be proactive in the area of recycling housing- refurbish housing to assist the next generation of people coming to the City. Limit “throw away” housing.

Discussion continued with the following brainstorming ideas:

Joiner: long range revitalization of housing. Assist larger employee based businesses to come to the City – possibly in the medical field.

Hulne: set our own agenda and then receive endorsement from the Council.

Skoglund: do not recreate ourselves as an Economic development committee. Masberg and Bender agreed.

Larson: do research of other cities to see what their City Councils are working on. Mike Opatz stated that this was done in 1998. The CAC went to other cities advisory committee meetings.

Joiner: as the City has changed, maybe we need to modify our charge since the last 2-3 years has been limited activity.

Beacham: renewal business vitalization- don't see any engine that markets the City – we have a website – if we expect growth to happen, it does not happen by itself. What are we doing as a City to create demand.

Bender: look at why businesses fail, i.e. Baker's Square, Timberlodge.

Joiner: need economic growth and senior housing. The hospital offers a lot of new opportunities like healthcare – be a catalyst to help bring other businesses to Maple Grove. Change the focus of what we can do under our mission statement. Look at cities that have manufacturing with many employees.

Gresser: Maple Grove does not have a nursing home.

Gill: look at the top 25 cities on the CNN/Money Magazine list.

Bender: Years ago, the City was considered a “bedroom community” – people live here and work somewhere else. High paying jobs are not here.

Joiner: does the City want to stay more of a “bedroom community”.

Hulne: if the City keeps building 1-2 story complexes, we are not going to get a large corporation like Target. Zoning and planning – last land development should be 5-20 stories.

Hulne: positively influence corporations to come to the City. The City has grown up – what do we want to be as a “grown up”?

Skoglund: look at Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Joiner: tax base can be offset in some way – manufacturing/technical jobs would be beneficial to the tax rate of the homeowners.

Masberg: There are drawbacks to large corporate campuses – look at doing more mid-size and more telecommuting.

Bender and Skoglund: facilitate WIFI coming into the City

What are the next steps? Hulne, Joiner and Beacham stated that need to boil our discussion down to a couple key discussion points for the City Council:

- Is the City (staff and Council) proactively shaping the future direction and how can CAC help with that? What are some examples of shaping the future?
- Success does not last forever. It is a challenge to stay the course. What is the “engine that markets the city? What are we doing to create demand? Can’t take a wait and see attitude. Can we sustain our highest peak of vitality?

Plan of Action:

- At the November meeting, ask Al Madsen, City Administrator and Phil Leith, Councilmember to talk to the group.
- Actively planning where we want to be and can we (CAC) be helpful and assist the Council.
- Ask for specifics and details – what direction are we going – is this set by the City Council.

Other topics for discussion at the November meeting:

- Jobs/economic development
- Crime
- Technology
- Recycling of housing stock
- Planning for an aging community
- Landuse Plan and Comp Plan Update
- TIF update
- Met Council Thrive MSP2040
- Joint Meeting with City Council
- City Survey (every five years, last one was in 2008)

**Other Business/  
Updates**

Discussion took place on doing a community survey in 2013. The last survey was done in 2008. Beacham made the motion to conduct a survey again in 2013, Skoglund seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Greninger  
Minute Secretary